

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.CHRISTMAS MARRIAGES.

A record number of marriages was celebrated during the 1939 Christmas Season, During the 15 days from Saturday the 16th to Saturday the 30th ^{December}, there were 496 marriages celebrated compared with 418 in 1938 and 426 in 1937, the previous record year. There were 106 marriages on Saturday the 16th, 148 on Saturday the 23rd, and 62 on Saturday the 30th, 42 on Tuesday the 26th, and 33 on Wednesday the 27th. Only 5 were celebrated on Christmas Day (Monday). It will be seen that Saturdays are the most popular days, but the day of the week on which Christmas Day falls has an effect on the numbers for the various days. In 1938 there were 105 on Saturday the 17th, 68 on the 24th and 41 on the 31st, whilst in 1937 there were 143 on Saturday the 18th and only 14 on the 25th. Apart from the Saturdays the 26th is the most popular day each year.

The record number of marriages ever celebrated on any one day was 207 on Easter Eve (Saturday) 1938, but there were only 163 on that day in 1939.

For December 1939, there were 723 marriages celebrated compared with 624 in 1938 and 634 in 1937. The greatest number of marriages celebrated in any one month was 804 in April 1938, the month in which there was the record number of Easter Marriages.

As regards the total number of marriages for the year, the pre-depression record was 4,503 in 1926, from which it fell to only 3,069 in the depression year 1930. Since then, the number has increased each year, and from 1935 there has been a succession of records - 1935-4,845; 1936-5,182; 1937-5,340; 1938-5,489, and 1939-5,670. During the last six months, the numbers celebrated compared with the previous year have been - July 398 (377), August 353 (324), September 553 (439), October 495 (490), November 473 (392) and December 723 (624), a total of 2,995 (2,646) increase 349. During the first six months, there were only 2,675 (2,843), decrease 168, so that the net increase for the year was 181.